

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 04337 111559Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 ERDA-05  
MCE-00 /099 W

-----038658 112336Z /63

R 111344Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1960  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4337

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SW  
SUBJ: THE NEUTRON BOMB: SWEDISH REACTION

REF: (A) USIA CIRCULAR 20208, (B) STOCKHOLM 4113

1. IT IS ALREADY APPARENT FROM THE CURRENT DEBATE HERE THAT  
A WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO APPROVE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SO-CALLED  
NEUTRON BOMB WILL HAVE CREATED AN ISSUE IN SWEDEN ON WHICH  
PRACTICALLY ALL SWEDES WHO BOTHER WITH FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE  
ABLE TO AGREE. EVEN BEFORE THE DEPLOYMENT DECISION, THERE  
IS A COMPETITION ABUILDING, NOT BETWEEN THOSE FOR AND AGAINST,  
BUT ON WHICH ORGANIZATIONS, BE THEY POLITICAL, PRESS OR YOUTH  
GROUP, CAN BE SEEN TO BE MOST MILITANTLY OPPOSED. FROM  
CRITICISMS RAISED BY TOP GOS LEADERS, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES  
AND THE MEDIA, IT IS RATHER CLEAR THAT THE SWEDISH MIND ON  
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THE NEUTRON BOMB IS ALREADY MADE UP. GIVEN THAT A PRINCIPAL  
TENET OF SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY IS TO LEND STRONG SUPPORT TO  
ALL FORMS OF DISARMAMENT, BUT PARTICULARLY IN NUCLEAR WEAPONRY,  
THE EMOTIONAL REACTION IS NOT SURPRISING. UNDER THE CIRCUM-  
STANCES, EMBASSY EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN A POSITIVE DEPLOYMENT  
DECISION ARE UNLIKELY TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY. YET WE  
BELIEVE AN INFORMATION EFFORT WOULD STILL BE WORTHWHILE,

BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE LAUNCHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. WE HAVE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE NUMBER OF HIGHLY CLASSIFIED SUMMARIES RECEIVED THIS FAR OF INTERNAL NATO CONSIDERATION OF THE WEAPON'S DEPLOYMENT. FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION PURPOSES, HOWEVER, WE REQUIRE ASAP MATERIALS WHICH MIGHT BE USED WITH EFFECT WITH THE MEDIA, POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND, NOT LEAST, THE GOS.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE (REF B), THE GOVERNMENT, GOADED CERTAINLY BY THE LEFT, IS LIKELY TO REPEAT CRITICISMS ALREADY LEVELLED AGAINST THE BOMB IN EACH GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT IT MAKES. IF IT DOES NOT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS WILL BE QUICK TO DRAW ATTENTION TO A LACK OF OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER THIS "CAPITALISTIC WEAPON". THE DEBATE IS ALSO LIKELY TO STIMULATE ACTIVITY, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, BY WHATEVER REMAINS OF FAR LEFT UNITY, LARGELY ABSENT SINCE THE END OF THE WAR IN INDO-CHINA. THE PRESS THIS WEEK NOTES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, THE SWEDISH PEACE AND ARBITRATION FEDERATION, THE SWEDISH PEACE COMMITTEE AND POSSIBLY OTHER GROUPS OF SIMILAR STRIPE WILL STAGE A DEMONSTRATION ON STOCKHOLM ON NOVEMBER 24, WHICH IS TO END, NOT SURPRISINGLY, IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY PASSED ON TO APPROPRIATE GOS OFFICIALS INFORMATION ON THE NEUTRON BOMB CONTAINED REF A AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WIRELESS FILE. WE REQUIRE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE KEY POLICYMAKERS. WE ALSO URGE THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH VISITING GOS LEADERS TO MAKE CLEAR, WHEN ASKED, THE REASONS FOR US CONSIDERATION OF NEUTRON BOMB DEPLOYMENT, WHAT THE WEAPON IS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IT IS NOT. WE UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT (S/P) WILL CHAIR AN INFORMAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 14 WITH THREE OFFICIALS OF THE MFA'S POLITICAL DEPARTMENT: DIRECTOR KNUT THYBERY, DISARMAMENT SECTION CHIEF ANDERS SANDSTROM, AND SECURITY SPECIALIST KRISTER WAHLBACK. THE LATTER TWO ARE AMONG THE GOVERNMENT'S WORKING LEVEL "EXPERTS" ON THE NEUTRON BOMB AND, IDEALLY, SHOULD NOT LEAVE WASHINGTON WITH THE CLEAREST APPRECIATION OF THOSE FACTORS WHICH HAVE LED TO US CONSIDERATION OF THIS WEAPON'S DEPLOYMENT.  
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL SECURITY, NUCLEAR BOMBS, MILITARY PLANS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STOCKHOLM 4113  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** THE NEUTRON BOMB: SWEDISH REACTION  
**TAGS:** PARM, MNUC, SW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009